

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceClifton
Culpeper County, Virginia**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Cliftonother names/site number Crigler's Place; VDHR File No. 023-5230**2. Location**

street & number

7091 Monumental Mills Roadnot for publication N/Acity or town Rixeyvillevicinity Xstate Virginia code VA county Culpepercode 047Zip 22737**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Cato Slusser
Signature of commenting or other official

August 1, 2008
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain): Signature of Keeper Date of Action

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceClifton
Culpeper County, Virginia**5. Classification****Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>10</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>15</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>Storage</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>VACANT/NOT IN USE</u>	
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>

7. Description**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek RevivalLATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
roof METAL: Tin
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
chimneys STONE; BRICK

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance circa 1845 - circa 1950

Significant Dates circa 1845
circa 1850
circa 1910

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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Culpeper County, Virginia

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 241 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 0760784 4278429 2 18 0239125 4277653 3 17 0761022 4276983 4 17 0760735 4277522
See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gibson Worsham date April 1, 2008
street & number: 3601 Brook Road telephone (804) 353-4801
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23227

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Clifton Farm of Culpeper, LLC
street & number 7091 Monumental Mills Road telephone (540) 937-4519
city or town Rixeyville state VA zip code 22737

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Section 7 Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located in northwestern Culpeper County, Virginia, Clifton, a mid-nineteenth-century evolved farmstead, survives with one of the largest collections of outbuildings in the region. The circa 1845 two-story, frame dwelling, built in the Greek Revival style, has wings constructed circa 1850 and circa 1910. The oldest part of the house began as a three-bay, side-passage-plan dwelling that evolved into a central-passage-plan house around 1850 with the addition of a one-room, two-story wing to the west side of the passage. A brick exterior-end chimney with a stone base rises at the east end of the original section of the house, which rests on a stone foundation and is topped by a standing-seam metal roof. A coursed stone exterior-end chimney with a brick stack stands at the gable end of the circa 1850 west addition. A three-bay, one-story porch, added circa 1910, protects the front entry bay. The two-story rear ell and the one-story kitchen at the east end of dwelling, exhibiting elements of the Craftsman style, were also added circa 1910. Recent rehabilitation efforts have included an extension of the two-story rear wing and an adjacent one-story addition to provide needed living space and modern conveniences, along with a rear entry porch added to the west elevation of the rear ell.

The farm at Clifton includes an important collection of ten contributing nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century outbuildings in three groupings. The principal domestic outbuildings are arranged in a “street” along the edge of the slope to the east of the house. A second group of outbuildings is found directly north of the house. The farm buildings are spatially related to the barn in a group west of the house. The earliest building is an antebellum two-story, frame kitchen with a wide stone chimney located at the east end of the house. The frame bank barn to the west was apparently built in the late nineteenth century. The remaining outbuildings date from the early to mid-twentieth century. They include a stone ash house, an icehouse, a chicken house, and a small frame barn, built around 1918; one additional frame chicken house was constructed circa 1950. A large, center-aisle frame corncrib and springhouse were built circa 1930. These are joined by three noncontributing buildings: a frame dairy, built around 1918, that has lost integrity; a pole barn built in 1960; and a garage/workshop added near the house in 2006. Five contributing sites include the locations of three former buildings—a frame smokehouse, a privy (the last one replaced a previous one on the same site), and one secondary dwelling (Cabin #1) said by tradition to have housed slaves belonging to the family—and two cemeteries. A family cemetery surrounded by a concrete wall is located northwest of the main house. A slave cemetery on a high bank above the Thornton River at the northern edge of the property has recently been located and surveyed by an archaeological consulting firm. The archaeological significance of each of the [five](#) contributing sites has not been determined.

Section 7 Page 2 **INVENTORY OF RESOURCES**

Main House (circa 1845)	Contributing Building
Kitchen (circa 1845)	Contributing Building
Bank Barn (late nineteenth century)	Contributing Building
Ice House (pre-1918)	Contributing Building
Ash House (pre-1918)	Contributing Building
Chicken House (pre-1918)	Contributing Building
Springhouse (circa 1930)	Contributing Building
Chicken House (circa 1950)	Contributing Building
Corn Crib (circa 1930)	Contributing Building
Small Barn (pre-1918)	Contributing Building
Family Cemetery	Contributing Site
Slave Cemetery	Contributing Site
Smokehouse site (pre-1918)	Contributing Site
Privy site (pre-1918/circa 1930)	Contributing Site
Slave Cabin #1 site	Contributing Site
Dairy (pre 1918, later altered)	Noncontributing Building
Pole Barn (1960)	Noncontributing Building
Garage (2006)	Noncontributing Building

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**Exterior Details**

The house at Clifton is a frame, two-story, single-pile, five-bay, central-passage-plan dwelling with a two-story rear addition. The earliest part of the house, facing south, is a two-story, three-bay, side-passage-plan dwelling built circa 1845. It was expanded soon after by the addition of a two-bay, two-story addition on the west side of the passage containing a single room on each floor. The gable ends of the completed five-bay house incorporates similar exterior-end chimneys, but they vary in construction material- that on the east is of brick and the chimney at the west is of stone with a disengaged brick stack. A one-story, three-bay porch with Doric columns extending across the central three bays of the south front was added circa 1910. It replaced an original one-story porch at the entry bay.

A wide, two-story cross passage across the rear of the house gives access to an offset two-story ell and to a one-story kitchen wing on the east end of the original section. The ell, passage, and kitchen were added in one campaign circa 1910. The ell contains a two-story, interior brick

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chimney. The kitchen wing originally incorporated a porch or sun porch across its south front. A leanto at the rear of the kitchen wing once contained a central pantry flanked by porches. A rear entry porch was added to the west side of the rear ell. The exterior of the house was unified by new wood siding and roof trim in about 1910. The house is sheathed with weatherboard. Deep cornice returns are found on the east, west, and added north gable ends.

The south front incorporates four window bays, two on each side of the central doorway. The windows are provided with original nine-over-six sashes on the first floor and six-over-six sashes above. The basement room at the east end is provided with two original three-over-three sash windows below the first-floor windows on the south. Original vents in similar locations on the north were blocked by the north addition. The west basement room was provided with a single barred vent located below and between the first-floor windows on the south. The center three bays of the south front are sheltered by the early-twentieth-century porch, which is supported by four modern Doric replacement columns and rests on brick piers with lattice infill. The form of the original columns is shown in the Greek Doric-style pilasters that survive against the main wall. The porch is surrounded today by an original turned baluster railing. The original central stair was removed as access at that point because it was no longer needed.

The entry on the south facade consists of an original, central doorway. It is fitted with an added, circa 1910 door with multiple decorative panels below a single glass panel. The door is flanked by single-light frosted glass sidelights inserted in the circa 1845 openings in 1910. The sidelights are extended to each side by original, full-height panels that probably served to complete the wall sheathing under the first porch. An electrified carbide light extends over the door.

The lower part of the east end is blocked by the east wing, but the upper floor contains the high, shouldered stone and brick chimney flanked at the garret level by casements. The west end is similar. The north elevation is covered by the north addition, except for the two western bays, which contain two nine-over-six, wood-sash windows on the first floor and similar six-over-six, wood sashes above. The cornice and weatherboard siding are similar to that on the south façade.

The north wing is made up of a wide leanto extending north of the passage and the east room of the main house and a two-story ell extending out in line with the east room of the main house. The north addition has a brick foundation. The two-story leanto, which contains a cross passage, is entered at the east end of the north façade from the one-story porch relocated from the south front. The porch is provided with paired round Doric columns. That this porch was completely relocated from another location is shown particularly by the inclusion of beam over the north door into the leanto cross passage, which would have formed the formerly freestanding east side of the porch in its former location. The doorway to the cross passage is filled with a circa 1910 seven-panel door with a transom above. A two-over-two-light, wood-sash window illuminates

the cross passage above the door and on each floor in the center of the west end wall.

The ell extends from the cross passage to the north. Its east wall is aligned with the east wall of the main house. Both the ell and the leanto are trimmed with weatherboard matching the main house. A single, central, two-over-two, wood-sash window pierces the second floor above and a similar window provides light and air on each floor on the west side. A bathroom in the east end of the second-floor cross passage is lit by a two-over-two, wood-sash window seen above the east kitchen addition.

The ell has recently been extended further to the north to contain new bathrooms on each floor. A new one-story family room addition has been recently added along the east side of the north wing. Both recent additions have been carefully designed to harmonize with the existing structure. The new windows and doors are similar to those in the rest of the ell. A polygonal bay window, which formerly pierced the east wall of the north wing, has been incorporated into the east wall of the new addition.

The east wing consists of a one-story, one-room kitchen, offset to the north rather than aligned with the main section of the house. The east addition originally stood on concrete pier supports, later infilled. The kitchen is lit, at the east end, by a single, central, two-over-two, wood-sash window. The offset on the south, originally a shed-roofed porch, sun porch, or conservatory, standing on brick piers, was enclosed in circa 1960 to serve as an extension of the kitchen. It features paired, wood-sash windows on the south front. These windows and an original door to the east have been recently restored as part of a kitchen rehabilitation.

A similar shed section to the north side of the kitchen held a small kitchen porch at the east end, an adjacent pantry or cold room in the center, and, against the north addition, a second porch fitted to the original bay window of the north ell giving direct entry to the east end of the cross passage. The pantry and porches have been replaced with a laundry room now located between the kitchen and the added one-story family room. The laundry room window was relocated from the north wall of the former pantry.

Interior Details

First Floor

The first floor of the house consists of the central passage, flanked on the east by the original main room, identified here as the east room, and on the west by the added parlor, called the west room. A cross passage along the north side of the house and an adjoining ell to the north were

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added in 1910, and the kitchen stands to the east. The walls and ceilings are plastered

throughout.

East Room

The east room is a well-proportioned space, with two windows spaced along the south wall. There were likely two windows in a corresponding location on the north side. The ghost of one is visible near the western end, but a door was added in circa 1910 at the eastern end at the foot of the new back stairs. The main door enters from the passage on the west end across from a centrally located fireplace in the east end. Another doorway to the south side of the fireplace once gave access directly to the exterior. It is closed with a heavily weathered antebellum six-panel door, but the plain interior surround suggests that it was added at an earlier date to serve some special purpose. The trim in the room is typical of the kinds of finish carpentry used as the Greek Revival decorative movement affected local woodworking traditions. The window and door surrounds feature two square grooves flanking a peaked central element and are provided with square corner blocks. A simple chair rail with square element at the bottom and a stepped profile at the top forms the sills of the windows. The mantel takes a late Federal form with flanking colonnettes and a tall frieze. The room has a simple beaded baseboard.

Passage

The passage has been much altered. The main door, flanked by 1910 frosted glass sidelights inserted in the original openings, is in the center of the south wall. Together with the door to the east room, located in the center of the east wall, it has the same woodwork as openings in the east room. The trim on the door to the added west room is different. The length of each trim board is divided by a regular series of square grooves into seven flat fields and provided with plain corner blocks. The stairway, which turns and climbs across the passage, is original but was visually updated in circa 1910 by the addition of a closed stringer, an oak rail with square balusters, and a diagonally placed paneled newel post. The original, antebellum vertical flush-paneled skirt encloses a stair to the basement dining room. An electrified oil lamp hangs from a counterweighted chain in the center of the ceiling.

The rear wall of the passage was opened up in circa 1910 and joins the added cross passage. The opening is flanked by older Roman Doric columns and half columns supporting a circa 1910 architrave. An apparent seam in the east wall, covered by an oak trim member, corresponds to the stair landing above. Like the east room, the passage has a beaded base. The floor was replaced with narrow oak in circa 1910. Instead of a chair rail, it has sections of plain pin rail on the east wall that served to hang pictures and other furnishings. An early cast-iron lamp bracket is found

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beside the door to the west room. The doors to the east and west room have early-twentieth-

century hardware with oval knobs. All of the doors opening into the passage retain delicate and well-preserved nineteenth-century painted graining.

West Room

The west room is similar in size and shape to the east room, which it replaced as the most formal room in the house. It has a central mantel in the west end and two windows on both the north and south. The window trim takes a more old-fashioned one-part architrave form, with a flat body and an outer molding consisting of a single ovolo. There is no bead on the inner edge. The window trim extends to the floor to form flat panels below the sills. There is also no chair rail. The unusual baseboard has a curved groove near the square top. The severe Greek Revival-style mantel is provided with a brick hearth. Original tongue-and-groove pine flooring survives.

Cross Passage

The cross passage at the rear is part of a large circa 1910, two-story addition to the rear of the house. It contains a secondary exterior entrance door with a transom directly opposite the original front door and a four-panel door to the kitchen at the east end. An adjacent door which led to a small inset porch was recently removed. A straight flight of closed stringer stairs rises along the south wall from near the kitchen door. An added door near the bottom of the stair gives access to the east room. A diagonally placed door under the stair opens into a closet in the paneled skirt below the stair. The diagonal newel and square balusters are like those added to the main stair in circa 1910. The door and window trim is plain and features a small molded cornice at the top. A door on the north wall near the east end opens into the north ell.

North Room

The two-story ell to the north contains another room, identified here as the north room. The north room has a single door in the center of the south wall from the cross passage, a single centrally placed window in the west wall, and had, until recently, a wide three-sided bay window in the east wall. The bay was relocated to the adjacent family room as part of a rehabilitation effort. The trim is like that in the cross passage. The projecting chimney breast is designed to serve a heating stove, but it carries an ornamental unpainted walnut mantel with a mirrored overmantel and paneled square pilasters. The intended use of the room as a dining room is confirmed by the placement of a glazed press with a serving counter to the west side of the mantel. A bath and closet have been recently added in an extension of the ell to the north.

The kitchen is located through a door at the east end of the cross passage. It was originally served by a porch across the south front and a small porch at the north end, next to the pantry or cold room. The pantry and north porch were replaced by the current laundry room, reached through the original four-panel pantry door. The former porch on the south was enclosed in the mid-twentieth century, and the wall between it and the kitchen was removed at a later date. A single long window is located in the center of the east wall. The lower part of the kitchen, including the projecting base of the main east chimney, is sheathed with beaded board wainscot. The kitchen was recently renovated, but its form and much of the trim have been maintained. The exterior door and three of the windows in the sun porch have been restored to recreate the former appearance of the sun porch at the west end of the room.

Second Floor

The second floor of the house consists, like the first floor, of a central passage, flanked on the east by the original main bedroom, identified here as the east chamber, and on the west by the added wing, containing two rooms called the large and small north chambers. A small unheated chamber was originally built in the south end of the passage. A cross passage along the north side of the house and an adjoining ell to the north were added in 1910, and a small nursery is found at the east end of the cross passage. The walls and ceilings are plastered throughout. The partition of the garret stair is formed of vertical boards covered with lath and plaster.

East Chamber

Like the east room below, the east chamber has two windows spaced along the south wall. There were likely two windows in a corresponding location on the north side. The only door enters from the passage on the west end across from a centrally located fireplace in the east end. A small enclosed stair, with a small closet below, rises from the passage to the garret in the northwest corner of the room. The trim, similar to that in the room below, features two continuous square grooves flanking a peaked central element. They are provided with square corner blocks. As in the first-floor room, a simple chair rail with square projections at the bottom and top forms the sills of the windows. The mantel, also, is like that in the east room, with its Federal form with flanking colonnettes. The room has a simple beaded base. The early one-panel door under the stair retains a grained finish. The closet is unplastered and whitewashed.

Upper Passage

The upper passage has been much altered. The door to the east room and the door to the garret

stair have the same woodwork as the openings in the east room. The trim on the door to the added west room is different. The doors are old six-panel doors. The north wall of the passage was removed in circa 1910 to open into the added cross passage and the opening dignified by a wood architrave supported by a single, central Doric column. The doorway has trim matching that in the west room below. The main stairway rises into the passage with the oak rail running into the 1910 added column between the passage and the cross passage. The stair rail is unpainted, as is the column and the architrave. The passage has a beaded base. The floor was replaced with narrow oak in circa 1910. All the doors opening into the passage retain nineteenth-century painted graining.

West Hall

The two west chambers are reached through two grained two-panel doors opening from a small hall at the top of the added stair extended from the landing of the main stair. It is lit by a single window in the north wall. The trim is like that in the west room below.

Large West Chamber

The west room is lit by windows on the north and south and contains a large Greek Revival-style mantel like the one below. The trim and base are similar in size and shape to the parlor below. There is also no chair rail. Original tongue-and-groove flooring survives. The door retains an added iron rim lock with a porcelain knob.

Small West Chamber

A small unheated chamber is located between the passage and the large west chamber. The door retains a compass lock with a small brass knob.

Cross Passage

The cross passage at the rear contains windows at the west end and on the north. A door at the east end leads to a bathroom, which was installed in a small unheated room that originally served as a nursery. A back stairs from the first floor rises along the south wall. The door and window trim is plain and features a small molded cornice at the top. A door in the north wall opens into the chamber in the north ell.

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North Chamber

The two-story ell to the north contains another room, identified here as the north chamber. The north room has a single door in the center of the south wall from the cross passage and single

centrally placed windows in the east and west walls. The trim is like that in the cross passage and in the room below. The narrow projecting chimney breast is designed to serve a heating stove, but it carries an unusually small ornamental mantel with reeded pilasters and a bracketed shelf. There is an original closet on the east side of the chimney. A bath and closet have been added in a recent extension of the north ell to the north.

Basement

East Room

The East Room in the basement served at an early date as a dining room. As was appropriate for a room used by the family for formal purposes, the east room was given full architectural treatment, with a wood floor, narrow, plain door and window trim and baseboard, plastered walls and ceiling, and sash windows. The floor no longer survives. The three-over-three sashes survive in the two window openings on the south front. Two former window locations are visible in the corresponding locations on the north. The small fireplace in the east end has a mantel like the first floor but with missing pilasters. Entry is through a door to the north side of the fireplace with a plain batten door hung on strap and pintle hinges. A furnace has been added in front of the mantel. The room includes the space under the first-floor passage, so that the open stair from the first floor descends at the west end of the room. The early stair has an oval rail, square balusters, and a chamfered half newel. There may have been a partition between the two spaces originally, since the ceiling height changes slightly below the partition between the passage and the east room above. A small pantry or storeroom was created at an early date at the back of the passage section of the room. It is enclosed with a whitewashed board partition and has an early beaded batten door with an old lock and strap and pintle hinges. Old whitewashed shelves survive in the storeroom.

West Room

The west addition, used at one time to preserve meat, contains a earth-floored room with whitewashed stone walls and a plastered ceiling. It is reached through a door cut through the west wall of the original house at the bottom of the stairs and closed with a plain batten door.

Garret

The attic story of the original house contains a partially finished garret. The stair rises in an unfinished enclosure into a room over the second-floor passage. It may have been enclosed

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originally at the top and has split lath attached with wrought nails. It was never plastered, but the lath remains. The common rafter roof has up-and down sawn rafters with Roman numeral identifiers. A door in the center of the partition divides the passage area from the east room. The early-nineteenth-century raised-panel, six-panel door with HL hinges and leather washers has a weathered face and has been recycled from elsewhere. The original west wall has been cut through to give access to the added garret. The original plain narrow weatherboard on the west gable end is visible. The common rafter roof of the addition is lapped and pegged and marked with Roman numerals. The east room is unfinished and the partition is of rabbetted horizontal boards.

SECONDARY RESOURCES

Outbuildings and Sites

The kitchen, dating from the same period as the first section of the house, circa 1845, is a two-story frame structure with large stone exterior-end chimney incorporating a broad cooking hearth on the first floor and a small fireplace on the second floor. The building, built into the bank east of the house, has mortised-and-pegged hewn members, log sleepers, a stone foundation, a standing-seam metal gable roof, batten doors, and two windows on the north and south elevations. Entry is from the south, formerly sheltered by a porch. The interior is finished with riven lath and plaster, wide random-width floors and a thick wood lintel above the wide fireplace. The plain joists are exposed in the first floor, while the second floor has a plaster ceiling. A narrow staircase is enclosed behind vertical boards at the west of the main room; it exits directly to the exterior, but physical evidence suggests that it also has a door directly into the kitchen at the bottom landing. The second floor, which appears to have served a residential function for household slaves, was later used for sleeping quarters by tenant farmers. It has an added stove vent in the chimney breast.

The bank barn, built in the late nineteenth century, has its main entrance from ground level on the uphill north side. The stone foundation is built into the hill to provide stalls for horses on the lower level. The frame barn, with a standing-seam metal roof, features circular sawn members, mortised and pegged joinery and log joists. The exterior was originally sheathed with vertical boards. An addition across the downhill front in about 1930 increased the size of the barn and provided increased hay storage. Another addition on the southeast end incorporated an enclosed haylift on the exterior. Both were sheathed with horizontal weatherboards. The original horse stalls are divided by walnut and oak partitions. It contains a circa 1930 corn wagon and chassis.

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The icehouse was built prior to 1918. The twenty-one-foot-square structure has vertical exterior siding, a stone foundation, an eight-foot double door on the east, and a large loft. A trapdoor near the doors gave access to the ice pit below the floor. In later years the building served as a garage and workshop as well. A window to the west has a single shutter.

The group of domestic outbuildings east of the house form a notable collection. The ash house is a low seven-foot-square stone structure used to hold the ashes emptied from fireplaces and stoves. Water was run through the ashes to obtain lye for soap making. The building has a peaked metal roof. It was used later as a chicken house.

The chicken house, twelve feet wide and eighteen feet long, is covered with vertical exterior siding and slats over the openings, has a metal roof, and a loft for storage above. The building's original use was as a wood house serving the adjacent kitchen and the main house. It was built before 1918. The springhouse was built circa 1930 using fieldstone and mortar. Five concrete steps lead down to an open pool used to keep crocks and milk cans cool in summer. A second chicken house was built in circa 1950.

The corncrib, built in circa 1930, is a large building that features a concrete foundation, frame construction, a storage loft, a central aisle with corn storage on each side, and a standing-seam metal roof with lightning rods. It has an attached equipment shed full of horsedrawn and antique farm equipment, and the family's Model T Ford car. The nearby small barn, built before 1918, was extensively repaired in 1998. It was used as a vehicle shed storing buggies and farm equipment. It is built with round posts and beams and has a standing-seam metal roof, earth floors, vertical siding, and a loft for storage.

The property contains, in addition to the house and outbuildings, five known sites with above ground evidence and two additional sites noted by oral tradition. The locations of three former buildings – a smokehouse, a privy (the last one replacing a previous one on the same site), and a secondary dwelling believed to have been used to house slaves owned by the family--are known by oral tradition and above ground evidence. The smokehouse collapsed circa 1960 and stones of the foundation are evident, although they have tumbled down hill in some places; some wood from the building exists in a very deteriorated state, and pieces of corrugated metal from the roof can be seen. The stone foundation from the privy exists in a broken pattern around the site. Remnants of one secondary dwelling (Cabin #1), can be seen above ground and the building materials include corrugated metal roofing, wood, and stone from a collapsed chimney. Two other former building locations are believed to be known from oral history, but no above ground evidence exists. These include the site of the pre-1918 dairy that was moved to its present location in 1925, and another secondary dwelling, also believed to have housed slaves (Cabin 2).

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In the late nineteenth century, it is believed that both “cabins” were used for housing by African-American tenant farmers. Hugh Davidson Crigler Sr. told his daughter that he and his sisters played with the children of a tenant farmer who lived there. There was an upstairs loft and the door faced south. This building was later used for pigs and chickens and, later, the storage of hay, before it collapsed circa 1945.

The property also contains two cemeteries, both contributing sites: a concrete-walled, family cemetery containing simple headstones, and an unmarked slave cemetery with approximately ten graves. Two Civil War soldiers were buried in the family cemetery. It stands north of the icehouse and next to the large vegetable garden north of the house. The oldest grave is that of Confederate soldier Hannibal Nestor, Co. E, 8th LA Infantry, who died in 1863. The slave cemetery, the subject of a recent archeological survey, is located in the remote north corner of the property, on a steep bluff above the Thornton River. The graves, which descend the hill in pairs, are marked today by depressions in the soil.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clifton, a frame, five-bay, center-passage-plan dwelling with Greek Revival-style details, is located in northwestern Culpeper County, Virginia. It survives as an excellent example of an evolved farmstead that has remained in the same family since it was built by George Roberts Crigler circa 1845. The rambling two-story dwelling, clad in weatherboard, with exterior-end

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brick and stone chimneys and a two-story rear ell, was constructed in three building campaigns: 1845, 1850, and 1910. The Craftsman style is evident in the 1910 addition. The 241-acre property, bordered on two sides by the Thornton River, is situated on a picturesque landscape and has one of the largest collections of farm-related outbuildings in the region.

Clifton is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as a mid-nineteenth-century evolved farmstead that contains important architectural information about domestic life in the Culpeper County area of central Virginia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The house is an unusually well-preserved example of an evolving house embodying a series of regionally important vernacular and popular dwelling forms. It features decorative details derived from pattern books representing the Greek Revival style and the early-20th-century Craftsman style. The architectural integrity of the dwelling is high on the exterior and interior and excellent craftsmanship is exhibited throughout the house through original windows, walls, floors, mantels, and window and door trim. Recent rehabilitation efforts of the house in 2006 have maintained the integrity of the evolved house as much as possible, while providing modern conveniences. The house includes an extensive collection of domestic and agricultural outbuildings and historic sites dating from circa 1845 to circa 1950, the period of significance: ten contributing buildings and five contributing sites. Only three non-contributing resources exist on the property.

HISTORY NARRATIVE

Early History of the Property

The property that is now known as Clifton was once part of a 1,054-acre tract “near Miller’s Mill” owned, in 1814, by Weedon Smith. His house, known as Cedar Hill, stood nearby until about 1938.¹ Smith is identified in the U.S. Census of 1810 with his wife Jane or “Jinny”.² He was married by 1814 to his second wife, Lucy Browning. Weedon Smith’s will was probated in early 1815.³ In it, he left his property to the twelve children of his sister Ann and to the seven children of another sister. In 1817, the property was listed in the tax records as the “Weedon Smith estate”. In 1818, the tract had been reduced to 812 ¼ acres and a new listing for 300 acres near Miller’s Mill appeared under the name of Smith’s sister, Ann Starke. The kind of marginal

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notation in the land book that often documents the reasons for changes of ownership is absent in this case. Ann Smith Starke was the wife of William Starke, who had died in 1815, very soon after his brother-in-law Weedon Smith. He left, as noted, a family comprising twelve children.

Monetary value for improvements (houses, barns, and outbuildings) is not noted in Virginia land tax records until 1820. In that year “Anna Stark” possessed 300 acres listed as “part of W. Smith’s estate” and located “near Knox’s Ford.” There were no improvements on the property.

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In the same year, William Starke's estate owned 585 acres with improvements valued at a substantial \$440. Ann Starke undoubtedly lived with the underage children at this family seat. The remainder of Weedon Smith's tract (about 812 acres) contained buildings assessed at \$550. Another member of the Stark family lived nearby. Burrell Starke (possibly one of Ann's sons) owned 240 unimproved acres "near Jameson's Mill" in the same year.⁴

In 1825, Ann Starke was listed as the owner of both the Smith and Starke estates with their valuable buildings to her holdings, in addition to the unimproved 300-acre tract she had received in 1818. She seems to have been holding the Smith tract for her brother's many heirs until the death of her sister-in-law as called for in Weedon Smith's will. As recorded in the tax and deed records, the nineteen heirs eventually released their shares to two of her sons: James S. Starke, executor of the estate, and George William Starke (b. 1812).

Ann Starke died by 1829. The 300 acres without buildings listed under her name in 1818 was listed under George W. Starke's name following her death, although he was not yet the legal owner. His acquisition of the land from his many relatives was not complete until 1840. Ann Starke's estate retained ownership, until 1835, of the remainder of the Smith family's Cedar Hill tract (said to be "near Gourdvine" in the tax records beginning in 1831). The 585-acre William Starke estate had been transferred to another son, Weedon S. Starke.

In 1835, Starke family members listed in the Gourdvine and Coones areas included the owners of the same four tracts with a slight variation in the amounts of their acreage. James S. Stark had 771 acres remaining of the 812-acre Weedon Smith estate with its \$550 in improvements. Weedon S. Starke had 585 acres with buildings valued at \$440 "near Coones." For the first time, Burrell Starke's 240 acres, also near Coone's, acquired buildings valued at \$110. This value probably represents a very modest one- or two-room house. He had sold the property to Thomas C. Rixey by 1836. James S. Starke disappeared entirely from the record in 1840, having sold most of his property in 1838 and moved to Rappahannock County.

George W. Starke's 335-acre tract at Gourdvine was the property now referred to as Clifton. Starke had left it undeveloped since it was subdivided from his uncle Weedon Smith's estate in 1818: now that he had clear title, he finally added improvements worth \$50 in time for listing in

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the 1840 tax book. It would appear that the house that was built by G. W. Starke in 1840 was very modest, probably of a single story and of one or two rooms. It is unlikely to be, and no physical evidence suggests that it is, part of the two-story frame dwelling at Clifton, unless fragments of it are buried within its framing.

Crigler Family Ownership

The history of the family which built and has maintained Clifton for over a century and a half

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begins in 1717. In that year, about eighty natives of Alsace, the Palatinate, and neighboring parts of Germany immigrated to the North American colonies. They had intended to settle in Pennsylvania in hopes of starting a new life as landowners and had paid for their transportation. Contrary to the immigrants' expectations the ship arrived in Virginia. They were unfairly sold as indentured servants to Gov. Spotswood by the ship's captain in order to help Spotswood secure the rights to a large tract of land he was assembling around the settlement at Germanna, established in 1714. This group included a man named Jacob Crigler (or Krigler, d. 1734), probably a young bachelor at the time.

Six years later, some of the immigrants petitioned Governor Spotswood to provide a copy of the covenant made with them at the time of their indenture. Spotswood would not do so, and, instead, took the men to court, perhaps to require them to serve even longer than they thought was required. Jacob Crigler was the first of the colonists to be sued by Col. Spotswood. Jacob Crigler was vindicated and released from his service. Most of the settlers left Germanna by 1725 or 1726 and acquired land in Madison County. Jacob married Susanna Cook (Koch).⁵ Jacob Crigler's son, Christopher (circa 1721-1808) married Catherine Finks in 1750. They had eleven children. The family attended Hebron Lutheran Church in Madison County, built by the former Germanna colonists in 1740. Christopher Crigler was commissioned an ensign in the Culpeper Militia, August 18, 1763. By 1803, the aging couple were listed in the Culpeper County personal property lists with four slaves over sixteen years of age and three horses or mules.⁶ Their youngest son, William (1778-1808), married Catherine Brown, daughter of Gideon and Elizabeth Roberts Brown in 1805.

William and Catherine Crigler and William's brothers James and Rueben settled nearby in Culpeper County. William, just starting out as a farmer, had no slaves, and two horses, but he was one of only five among the over 1,270 taxpayers in the district to have a profitable stud horse.⁷ William had only one son, George Roberts Crigler. By 1815, when there was an unusually detailed personal property tax, William Crigler had four slaves over and one slave under sixteen years of age, six horses, and sixteen cattle. His brother, Rueben, had no taxable property, and his other brother, James, possessed a wooden clock, but of the many types of furniture, including clocks, mahogany sideboards, chairs, carpets, curtains, watches, carriages,
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wagons, swords, books, silver and pewter furnishings, and other valuable goods owned by their wealthier neighbors, the Criglers possessed not a single example. They may have made a choice to avoid such expensive and ostentatious items of convenience and conspicuous consumption as unnecessary and vain, or they may have been too expensive. Slaves however, were clearly a commodity that the Criglers could not do without. In 1822, William had five slaves over sixteen years of age in addition to five equines (horses, mares, or mules).⁸

Although the family had been members of the Lutheran Church since immigration, they

eventually allied themselves with the self-effacing and humble Baptist sect that swept the state in the late eighteenth century. Catherine Crigler was baptized at Gourdvine Baptist Church in the area near their farm in 1825. Her father, Gideon Brown, had served as a founding trustee when the church was started in 1791, but did not join until 1828, two years before his death. Catherine's example was followed by her husband and son in 1831. Daniel, Juliet, and Sicily, slaves belonging to Catherine and William Crigler, were baptized in 1832, and Samuel, a slave of their son, George Roberts Crigler, joined by transfer of letter in 1837. Daniel and Juliet both died in 1840, and Sicily, possibly their daughter, in 1869. Another slave of William Crigler, Isabel, was baptized in 1843 and excluded in 1858. Baptists were expected to display lives of personal holiness. The local church tried and excluded those who contravened the rules by such activities as cursing, drinking, and other forms of immorality identified by the church.⁹

George Roberts Crigler

Christopher's grandson, George Roberts Crigler (1807-1900), was active in the Gourdvine area during the antebellum period, buying and selling several tracts before settling on one to be his homeplace. He first appeared in the tax records of the northern district of Culpeper in 1836, purchasing two unimproved tracts totaling 141 ¼ acres in at Gourdvine. In 1840, Roberts Crigler (as he was called) added a building or buildings valued at \$50 to the tracts. He sold 134 ¼ acres of his local property to George W. Starke in 1841. He waited for two years and then purchased 252 acres "on Muddy Run," with \$200 in buildings, from Thomas C. Rixey. This was same tract with \$110 in improvements formerly belonging to Burrell Starke. In 1844, Roberts Crigler sold his 252-acre farm to Wingfield S. Coons.

Crigler, a 37-year-old father of three children, then acquired his final homeplace tract at Gourdvine by purchasing George W. Starke's 314-acre property with \$50 in improvements. Crigler was apparently content for a few years to live in the very modest structure built by Starke a few years before. His father, William Crigler, helped him buy the farm. In order to purchase the land, both Criglers signed several promissory notes to Starke. Roberts Crigler paid more than \$1,944.00 over a period of five years [see Plate 1].¹⁰

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George Roberts Crigler married Ann Elizabeth Brown (1817-1886) in 1833. They had three children: Sarah Virginia, William Gideon, and Roberta. In 1850, the tax records indicate that he had built a new dwelling, a major part of improvements now valued at \$500. The static nature of the Culpeper County tax records over decades suggests that reassessments occurred infrequently. It is likely that Crigler began and may have even completed his new house sometime before it was recorded in a general reassessment in 1850. The value of \$500 for improvements on the Crigler farm at Clifton remained constant as late as 1870. In 1853, the acreage was reduced to 290 ½ acres. However, Crigler controlled, in addition, during this period and as late as 1873, 13 nearby acres on Thornton's River with an improvement worth \$50, possibly a modest gristmill,

held in trust for Malinda Jones.¹¹

Personal property tax records for 1845 show that the family included two white males over 16 years of age. Roberts Crigler owned four slaves over the age of 16 and none under the age of 12. He had four horses or mules, one clock (non-metal), and paid \$1.81 in personal property tax. By 1850, there was only one male over 16 in the household, four slaves over 16, six slaves under the age of 12, five horses or mules, one watch, one clock, and \$2.79 in personal property tax.¹² The farming at Clifton was encouraged during early years by dramatic local improvements in transportation, making movement of goods and produce to and from market more economical. The Hazel River Navigation Society formed June 26, 1850. The Hazel River and Rappahannock River Canals operated for only three harvest seasons, when it was replaced by the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

In order to operate his farm, Roberts Crigler used slave labor, owning as many as nine slaves in 1850.¹³ He had previously rented slaves from neighbors when his own slave numbers were insufficient [See Plate 2].¹⁴ A slave cemetery exists on the farm, and its location has recently been confirmed as part of an archeological survey. Several slaves stayed on after emancipation to work on the Crigler farm. Roberts Crigler, based on his relationships with his slaves and ex-slaves, was remembered among his descendents in the twentieth century as "Marse Roberts." Members of the Crigler family were active in improving and extending education in the Culpeper region. Interest on the part by the government in public education began in the late eighteenth century. The state's Literary Fund, created in 1810, distributed money to counties to educate poor white children and, in 1829, to construct school buildings. There was much prejudice against the free school idea in the antebellum period, and there is little evidence that such schools were popular anywhere in the state. Instead, community schools, where parents from several households would hire a teacher, became the norm for elementary levels of schooling. In compliance with state directives designed to encourage citizens to voluntarily improve educational opportunities, counties were supposed to divide themselves into school districts. All white children over the age of six were to receive education free of charge.

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Roberts Crigler was active in both private and public schooling. He was one of the ten citizens appointed as the County's second school board in October 1857. According to a local historian, "each man was to see that his district had a schoolhouse, teacher, and books and stationary free of charge. . . . White children between six and twenty-one could attend school, and each commissioner was to visit the schoolhouse once a month."¹⁵

Crigler began a school for local boys on Clifton Farm (his great-granddaughter says at the west side of the property). Although it is not known where he attended school, Crigler was well-known in the area as an accomplished mathematician or "mathematical brain."¹⁶ Textbooks from his school days remain crated in the attic of the house at Clifton. These include Howe's *Virginia*:

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Its History and Antiquities (1845), textbooks from the 1830s and 1840s for the study of chemistry, botany, geography, U.S. history, ancient history, Latin, *McGuffey's Newly Revised Eclectic Fourth Reader* (1848), and *Lectures to Young Men on the Cultivation of the Mind* (1841) by George Burnap. Elements of History, Ancient and Modern with Charts, copyright 1834, has an inscription which reads *Clifton School* on the flyleaf and *Clifton School/ Sarah V. Crigler* (daughter of Roberts Crigler) on the second page. Clifton School's maps were found rolled, along with Crigler's wooden pointer, above the lath at the peak of the attic roof.

George Roberts Crigler's son, William Gideon Crigler, seems to have assisted him in teaching (see below). His descendants remember that the school was referred to as an academy and that it closed during the Civil War.¹⁷ Another source says that Crigler, "upon the conclusion of the Civil War, ...opened a small school near his home and taught for some years."¹⁸

Roberts Crigler suffered economically toward the end of his life, possibly as a result of the economic hardships following the years of civil war. In 1872, his son, William Gideon, served as tax commissioner for the Jeffersonton District of Culpeper County.¹⁹ In 1870, Roberts Crigler sold 17 acres to Mathew Hobson, possibly to raise needed cash.²⁰ By 1873, he was unable to meet his debts and was forced to declare bankruptcy, as happened to many farmers at that period. He was fortunate that his son was able to buy the farm from the court-appointed special commissioner two years later and keep Clifton in the family. He apparently turned over operation of the farm to Gideon Crigler at that time, but lived until 1900, fourteen years after the death of his wife.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built about 1845, with an addition constructed circa 1850, Clifton represents an unusually well-preserved example of the center-passage plan, a regionally widespread domestic house form. The house uses interior and exterior details that are associated with the Greek Revival style,

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fashionable in the United States from around 1825 until 1860. The Greek Revival-style details include the plain but elegant architectural elements on the façade, such as the paneled front entrance with sidelights and the square pilasters. Related interior elements in the original sections include the flat door panels and the flattened ovolo window and door trim.

Other styles had become popular by the early twentieth century, and although the north rear ell at Clifton has the same mass and configuration as the original section, the interior represents the Craftsman movement which was popular in the United States in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Elements of this style and careful craftsmanship characteristic of the period are revealed in the mantel and glazed press in the 1910 addition to the house, as well as in the reworked south entrance door and in the refurbished central passage and staircase, with its

natural wood finishes.

Phase One-Original Construction of the House

The house was most likely built circa 1845 as a two-story, side-passage-plan dwelling on a raised basement. A brick chimney with a stone base rose at the east end. Room use in the original house would most likely have resembled that followed in numerous houses of contemporary date throughout the region. The first floor contained the parlor, the best-finished and principal entertaining room in the house, with the most elaborate fireplace and trim. The passage inside the front door also would have opened to the rear. It contained a staircase giving access to the second floor, which contained a large chamber over the parlor usually occupied by the owner of the house. This was supplemented by a small, unheated chamber over the front entrance.

The basement contained a fully finished room under the parlor reached by a finished stair from the first-floor passage. This room, fitted with a mantel not unlike that at the parlor fireplace, undoubtedly served as a dining room (there is no evidence that the chimney ever contained a cooking fireplace). Basements were often chosen for dining rooms in the nineteenth century. Cool in summer, these rooms were distinguished from servant spaces such as kitchens by the window trim, mantels, and wood floors. Access from the kitchen was through the basement bulkhead at the east end. The area under the north end of the passage was partitioned off as a storeroom with shelves.

The house was entered through a small porch with Greek Revival-style detailing. The door was surrounded by paneling that filled the wall under the porch and effectively treated the porch like a quasi-interior space. A late-nineteenth-century photograph of Clifton shows the house as it appeared at this time with the original porch [see Plate 3].²¹

Phase Two- First Addition

George Roberts Crigler enlarged the house at Clifton soon, it appears, after its construction. He made a two-story addition giving the finished house the form known as the central-passage plan. Whether this was itself added in time for the assessment in 1850 remains unclear. A doubling of

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the value of the buildings on the farm in the land tax book for 1871 could indicate that the addition dates, instead, from after the Civil War.²²

The finishes of the addition, however, indicate that it was likely built in the decade after the main house. The addition would have likely completed an originally conceived and symmetrical whole. It differed from the original section chiefly in the stone construction of the main bulk of the chimney. A seam in the front and rear walls showed where the addition had been made. In most houses the second first-floor room appears to have been used as a master bed chamber and heated family gathering room. Here there is one clue that the owner may have chosen to stay on the second floor. The door added at the east end beside the chimney was for many years exposed

to the elements as an exterior door. Such doors facing a kitchen often signify that the room was used as a dining room, in which case the basement might have been a secondary bed chamber at the same time. The east basement room and the first-floor room above may, in fact, have altered uses with each generation. The addition contained a plainly finished room at the basement level. The plastered ceiling, whitewashed stone walls, and lack of a fireplace suggest a food storage or other support function supplementing the smaller store room at the rear of the adjoining passage. This room was used for the curing of hams at one point in its later history. The second floor of the addition contains a large chamber at the west end beside a small unheated chamber. In the same period a two-story kitchen was built against a slope at the east end of the house. A stair led from the exterior to a second-floor room where a slave or servant family would have lived. A massive stone chimney stands at the east end, serving a large cooking fireplace in the interior. Roberts Crigler set up a family cemetery north of the house. This was begun, according to family tradition, when soldier Hannibal Nestor, a member of Louisiana's Franklin Parish Sharpshooters, died at Clifton after succumbing to measles in 1861. He was buried at the corner of the garden. The cemetery was originally protected by a "paling fence" but was provided with a concrete wall in about 1927.²³ Most family members were buried there, as well as an unknown Federal soldier.

William Gideon Crigler

George Roberts Crigler's son, William Gideon Crigler (1840-1921) inherited the property at his father's death in 1900. He was named for William Crigler, his paternal grandfather, and Gideon Brown, his maternal grandfather, and called "Gid." Gid moved with his parents to Clifton at the time of its purchase around the age of four. "Gid" Crigler, as he was known, was baptized at Gourdvine Sept. 19, 1858, at the age of 14. He was aged 21 and working as a school teacher in 1861, probably at his father's school. In that year he enlisted in the Little Fork Rangers, Company D, 4th Regiment, Virginia Cavalry, bringing with him "two good horses," for which he was given a \$150 credit. A skilled horseman, he found useful service as a courier and cavalryman.²⁴ His exploits were recounted in a local history of the Civil War:

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"The first engagement in which William Gideon Crigler took part was the First Battle of Manassas where he served as courier for General Longstreet. He considered the Battle of Williamsburg as one of the hardest fights in his entire war experience. His company, as well as the entire army suffered great losses in both killed and wounded.

In the spring of 1864, he joined Mosby's Partisan Rangers and the year he served with this famous command was filled with momentous events, daring raids, bloody encounters, and hairbreadths escapes from death and capture.

One of Mr. Crigler's vivid recollections was when a small force of Mosby's men successfully attacked an enemy wagon train near Berryville, capturing about two hundred wagons, many small arms, quantities of ammunition and hundreds of tons of valuable stores.

At the close of the War he returned to his home at Hazel River where he engaged in farming for the rest of his life."²⁵

During the war, Gideon Crigler and A. M. McCormick captured two Union soldiers and frightened off five others at Clifton. McCormick saved Crigler's life soon after. Escaping toward a wooded section from a band of about twenty-five mounted northern soldiers at Jeffersonton, Gideon's horse fell. When McCormick got to the woods, he turned and seeing Gideon down, galloped back and called out "Charge, boys!" The soldiers were deceived and fled without capturing or killing Crigler.²⁶

William Gideon Crigler married nineteen-year-old Mary Ellen Parr (1849-1905) on November 5, 1868. They had four children: Albert Moffett (Allie), Hugh Davidson, Emma Roberta (Berta), and Anne Elizabeth (Bessie). Crigler served as the real estate tax assessor in 1872 for the Jeffersonton district of Culpeper.²⁷ When George Roberts Crigler declared bankruptcy in 1873 and the farm was forced into receivership, Gideon was able to buy it back two years later, the year of his father's death. Gideon Crigler's farm became known for its good corn and specialized in the breeding of horses.

Gideon Crigler's granddaughter recalls that he was a quiet man of small build who loved horses and farming, and says that he rarely mentioned his time in the Civil War, and rarely left the farm. When he slept, he occasionally had nightmares about the war and would wake from them struggling and shouting. He would ride over the fields more often than seemed necessary for oversight of the farm. Mary Miller Crigler, his granddaughter, would get bored, request

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permission to go to the outhouse, and untie her grandfather's horse, Fanny, and go for a ride across the fields.²⁸

Gideon Crigler served as the clerk of Gourdvine Baptist Church for twenty-four years, beginning in about 1890. He also served as Sunday school superintendent. By this time, the several generations of the Crigler family were regarded as pillars of the church.

Phase Three- Third Addition

In the decade from 1870 to 1880 a small kitchen with a pantry and "little porch" is said to have been built in the same location as the present kitchen, but smaller, because "it became more difficult to hire competent help." A well, no longer extant, was dug at this time near the new

kitchen door.²⁹ The wing was probably built, as well, to provide a separate cooking space for Gideon Crigler's wife, Mary, after their marriage in 1868. The kitchen was recessed from the south façade, presumably so that the existing exterior door in the east end of the original parlor could continue to give access to the exterior.

The careful preservation of the exterior door in the east end of the house might suggest that Anne E. Crigler Gideon's widow, who lived until 1886, and her unmarried daughter Berta (1832-Circa 1885), continued to use the old exterior kitchen and still needed immediate access to it. The late-nineteenth-century photograph of Clifton shows the house as it appeared at that time, but only the shed-roofed porch that stood in front of the first kitchen addition is visible at the east end of the house [See Plate 3].³⁰

An extensive garden was laid out around Clifton, traces of which can be seen today. While the vegetable garden was to the rear, the front and east side of the domestic yard were provided with boxwood hedges and flowers, which also provided income for the family. Gladioli from the garden were used for funerals at Gourdvine. The historic late-nineteenth-century photograph shows the family in front of the house with the terraced front walk lined by clipped boxwood [see Plate 3].

A virtual street of outbuildings grew up to the east and north of the house, lined with the antebellum kitchen, a smokehouse, a stone ash house, a small frame dairy, two chicken houses and a privy. An icehouse, a small barn, and a bank barn were built to the northeast in this era [see Plate 4].

Hugh Davidson Crigler, Sr.

William Gideon's son, Hugh Davidson Crigler, Sr. (1876-1945) took responsibility for the farm after his father's death in 1921. His brother, Allie, and his sisters Bessie (who married Mason Browning), and Berta (wife of E. M. Browning) sold their inherited shares of the farm to him in

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1928. At the same time, he purchased horse drawn farm equipment from Sears, much of which remains stored on the farm.

Hugh Davidson Crigler married Sarah Katherine Armstrong (1883-1973) in 1911. They moved into the house with his parents, much as previous newlyweds had been doing at Clifton for the past 75 years. Like those earlier couples, they were forced to carve out space for privacy, and devise ways of sharing the house with the others. In Hugh Crigler's case, family members indicate that he felt he couldn't marry until he had made the house acceptable to his prospective wife. He added the kitchen and rear wing in about 1910 to provide additional space for his projected family and up-to-date interior kitchen facilities.

Crigler was a successful diversified farmer. He won awards at the Virginia State Fair and a

trophy from the Wood Seed Company for his excellent and high-yield corn crops. The horses he bred remained a source of pride to him. He had several mares, Queenie and Flora in particular among them, who produced foals that were raised to two- or three-year-old colts and then sold. Crigler was also locally renowned as a reliable predictor of the weather. The farm changed as needed to keep up with economic demands of the time and technological changes in agriculture.

Clifton produced cream for making butter, separated each day from the farm's fresh milk, kept cool in the spring or icehouse, and then carried by the mailman to the Culpeper Creamery each week. The mailman also took crates of eggs from local henhouses to town. The farm's women also raised turkeys for sale as well as jonquils and boxwood clippings for florists. Sarah Crigler placed turkey eggs under hens to hatch and watched them carefully during the summer. They were butchered in cool weather in the fall, hung briefly in the basement below the parlor, and then packed in barrels and sent by rail to Washington, D.C. They sold for a substantial sum, enough in 1936 alone, according to Sarah Crigler, for a new Dodge car.³¹

The household at Clifton in the 1920s still employed servants to assist with household and farm duties. Some of them were former slaves or descendents of slaves that had belonged to the Crigler family. John Massey and another man named Herman, who worked as farmhands, lived in the second floor of the kitchen in what had likely been the home of the cook's family in former days. At one time John Massey and his family lived in a tenant house on the place known as the Hobson House. John and Herman helped with milking and separating the milk. Lizzie Hill was the cook in the 1920s and 30s. Farm work required assistance and a number of farmhands were often required. Black workers who either lived on the farm or nearby would work for about \$1.00 a day. They were provided with a midday meal prepared by Lizzie Hill.

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The Crigler family fondly recalled a couple known to them as Uncle Primus and Aunt Betty Smith. Primus performed especially skilled duties on the farm, like packing the turkeys for transport and killing hogs. Their daughter, Ginnie, worked as a maid at Clifton. Annie Jones, born in the 1880s in a small dwelling that stood near the henhouse at Clifton, was the laundress. She later moved to Washington, but returned to the community of Viewtown and married Tom Clark.

Big occasions on the farm were holidays, when uncles and aunts would visit, and third Sundays, when there was preaching at Gourdvine Church. Extra help came into the house to clean and cook a big meal. In addition to the servants, the farm accommodated a teacher for the two children, a Miss Willie Doyle, who lived and taught in the upper room of the 1845 addition. Later Miss Eleanor Colvin and Miss Berma Bouie stayed in the upper room of the new ell added in 1910 and taught at the nearby one-room school at Homeland.³²

Clifton first entered the historical record during this period. A Works Progress Administration-sponsored inventory of historic buildings was conducted across the state during the Great Depression. Culpeper area researcher J. P. Thompson of Rapidan visited the site in 1937. No photograph survives from his visit. Some of the information is incorrect or distorted and the text indicates that the history of the house was unclear at the time, in spite of his research in primary local sources. He dated the first construction to about 1790 and wrote:

Standing near the Hazel River, in a half acre yard, surrounded by tall trees and thick boxwood, this old house is still sturdy and strong after about a century and a half of service. The sills of the house measure 12 inches by 13 inches and are all hewn by hand. The studding is about

a foot and a half apart. The rafters are slotted. The laths are hand riven and the nails used were shop made. It is built in the shape of a "T" and has two large rock chimneys, one at each end of the old section.

In the yard, there stands an old cook house twenty-eight in length and sixteen feet wide. This has a rock foundation, all rock chimney which is very large, and a peaked roof. The studding is close, the sills hewn, and the floor boards wide.

This place is quite frequently referred to by the older people of the neighborhood as the Old Starke Place, because it was owned for so long by that family. The ford by which people were accustomed to cross the river just below this house and a bit in front of it, was called Starke's Ford during the War Between the States, although the Criglers owned it then.

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W. G. Crigler, who purchased it in 1875, was a member of the Little Fork Rangers during the War Between the States. He and his wife and George R. Crigler and his wife are all buried in the graveyard which is at the back of the house.

William G. Crigler left the property to his four children. These were Hugh D. Crigler, A. M. Crigler, Roberta Browning, wife of E.L. Browning, and Anna Elizabeth, wife of Mason Browning. Mr. Hugh Crigler bought the other children out and lives in the house now.³³

Phase Four- Fourth Addition to the House

The addition made in circa 1910 by Hugh Davidson Crigler, Sr. was composed of three parts but apparently built in a single campaign and effectively encompassed the entire house within a new shell. It is consistently finished on the exterior and interior with the same trim elements. It served

not only to enlarge the house and increase the number of rooms, but to improve circulation, increase privacy, and give a stylish appearance to some of the most prominent features. The central portion is a two-story passage along the back of the main house containing a back stair and connecting the new kitchen with the rest of the house. A small nursery (later converted to a bathroom) was located at the east end of the second-floor cross passage. A rear stair in the new cross passage provided additional options to the two generations now occupying the house.

A two-story ell with a room on each floor extended to the north and contained a new dining room on the first floor with a stylish one-story polygonal bay on the east, appropriate for growing house plants, and a bedroom on the second floor. The dining room was equipped with a built-in, glass-fronted buffet beside the fashionable mirrored walnut mantel. The mantel was false and the chimney served a heating stove. This warm room and the room above may have been the principal residential quarters of the younger Criglers as the elder couple continued to occupy the main section. Mary Miller Crigler Boldridge remembers that her parents used the first-floor room as a bedroom and sitting room and the second floor as a schoolroom. When she was a young girl, her schoolteacher, Miss Willie Doyle, lived in the school room and taught both Crigler children.³⁴

The third section of the 1910 addition was a one-story, one-room kitchen with porches on the front and back. This replaced the older kitchen addition of c. 1875. This appears to have corresponded in location to the earlier kitchen addition. It included, like the earlier kitchen, a porch across the front sheltering the door in the east end of the main section.

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The exterior surface of the entire house was unified at this time by replacing all the weatherboarding. The roofing was replaced with standing-seam metal and consistently detailed new cornices were added to the entire house containing inset gutters. The block tin roofing is labeled on the underside throughout "Mt. Vernon #10 Old Style." The cornices return around the gable ends but stop short of the chimneys. Window sashes and window and door trim were preserved.

Finally, Hugh Davidson Crigler made his mark on the house by altering the front stair and providing a screen of columns between the front and cross passages. Both the diagonally placed newel post and the heavy balustrade of the modified staircase, as well as the columns dividing the front and rear of the house are evocative of the new and stylish Craftsman style of interior finishes. Unlike at some other regional houses which were modified at this time, Crigler was conservative in his alterations and left the mantels and trim in the principal rooms alone.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Clifton
Culpeper County, Virginia

Crigler made alterations to the property also in keeping with his changes in the operation of the farm. He modified the bank barn to serve better for the breeding of horses by expanding the loft and first-floor stall area. He also built, to provide feed to an expanded number of horses, a very large central-aisle corncrib in about 1930 near the barn. He surrounded the cemetery with a concrete wall at about the same time. The cemetery contains, in addition to the Crigler owners, the following burials: William George (a child), Hannibal Nestor, CSA, and an unknown Federal soldier (no stone).

Hugh Davidson Crigler, Jr. and Mary Miller Crigler Boldridge

At their father's death in 1945, Hugh Davidson Crigler, Jr., (1915-1995) and his sister, Mary Miller Crigler (1918-), shared ownership of the farm. Hugh Davidson Crigler, Jr. married Mary Hume. Mary Miller Crigler married William Franklin Boldridge (b. 1917). Hugh Davidson, Jr. farmed at Clifton. He died without heirs in 1995. Full ownership then passed to his sister. Her daughter, Kathy, and her husband, Robert Ellis, have assumed ownership today and are restoring the house and farm buildings with a careful sense of history.

Phase Five- Minor additions to the house to the present

The small room at the east end of the cross passage, formerly a nursery, was made into a bathroom in about 1935. The kitchen was enlarged by the addition of a pair of porches flanking a central pantry on the north side of the kitchen. The porch along the front of the kitchen was enclosed in ca 1928 to form a sun porch. Plates 5 and 6 show the house soon after the addition of the sun porch. The addition of running water in the house was made in 1927 when a cypress-wood water tank was built twenty feet above ground at the north end of the old exterior kitchen.

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The house was altered little after the 1920s. Only the kitchen was modernized, in keeping with new standards and labor saving devices available after the Second World War. The wall between the sun porch and the kitchen was removed and the area was made part of a newly renovated kitchen in 1960.

Phase Six- Recent Additions to the House

As part of a comprehensive rehabilitation of the house by Robert and Kathy Ellis the house has been repaired and its historic finishes restored. The exterior and interiors have been carefully returned to their early –twentieth-century appearance, preserving the original house and most of the significant alterations made over a century and a half of Crigler family ownership. The kitchen has been modernized and the former sun porch area on the west has been restored. New baths and closets have been added in a two-story extension of the north ell. A one-story family room, carefully detailed to harmonize with the existing structure, has been added to the north of the kitchen along the east side of the north ell. A program of restoration is underway with the outbuildings.

Archaeological Potential

The property at Clifton has potential to yield information relating to domestic life on the farmstead as well as African-American culture. The sites of three former buildings (smokehouse, privy, dairy, and one slave dwelling) and an important slave cemetery have been identified. While the slave cemetery has been professionally surveyed, more work is needed to confirm the number and significance of the graves. The survey report concluded that the identity of the slave cemetery was confirmed not only by oral history but by “the placement of the interments in the very northern corner of the property overlooking the river and the simplicity of the landscaping and markers. . . traditional hallmarks of a slave cemetery. The family cemetery and the slave cemetery contribute to the historic significance of the property, representing “very different lifeways in this rural area of Culpeper County.”³⁵

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries for the property at Clifton correspond to the boundaries of lot 12-62 on the accompanying tax maps of Culpeper County, Virginia obtain from the GIS Division of the Culpeper County Planning Department.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were selected to include all resources historically associated with the property and include the intact original crop land and pastures connected with the Crigler occupation of the property, as well as all the potential archeological sites, including the slave cabin site (centrally placed on the farm) and the slave cemetery (at the northern edge of the property). The original acreage was conveyed to George Roberts Crigler by George W. Stark in 1844 as cited in

Culpeper County Deed Book 7, page 5.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are common to:

PROPERTY: Clifton

LOCATION: Culpeper County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHER: Kathy Ellis

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: December 2007

LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

VIEW OF: South front from the Southeast

NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/19

PHOTO 1 of 19

VIEW OF: South front from the Southwest

NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/11

PHOTO 2 of 19

VIEW OF: House from Northwest
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/18
PHOTO 3 of 19

VIEW OF: East side of house from Northeast
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/4
PHOTO 4 of 19

VIEW OF: First-floor East room looking East
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24143/5
PHOTO 5 of 19

VIEW OF: Second-floor East room looking East
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24143/12
PHOTO 6 of 19

VIEW OF: First-floor passage looking South
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24142/19A
PHOTO 7 of 19

VIEW OF: First-floor East. room mantel
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24142/17A
PHOTO 8 of 19

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VIEW OF: First-floor North room mantel
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24142/10A
PHOTO 9 of 19

VIEW OF: New garage and house from North
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/30
PHOTO 10 of 19

VIEW OF: Kitchen from Southwest
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/10
PHOTO 11 of 19

VIEW OF: Chicken House and Kitchen from Southeast
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/7
PHOTO 12 of 19

VIEW OF: Corncrib from North
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/7

PHOTO 13 of 19

VIEW OF: Small Barn from East
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/14
PHOTO 14 of 19

VIEW OF: Icehouse from West
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/15
PHOTO 15 of 19

VIEW OF: West end of Large Barn from West
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/27
PHOTO 16 of 19

VIEW OF: East end of Large Barn from East
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/21
PHOTO 17 of 19

VIEW OF: Ash house ruin from Southeast
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/34
PHOTO 18 of 19

VIEW OF: Cemetery from West
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 24141/16
PHOTO 19 of 19

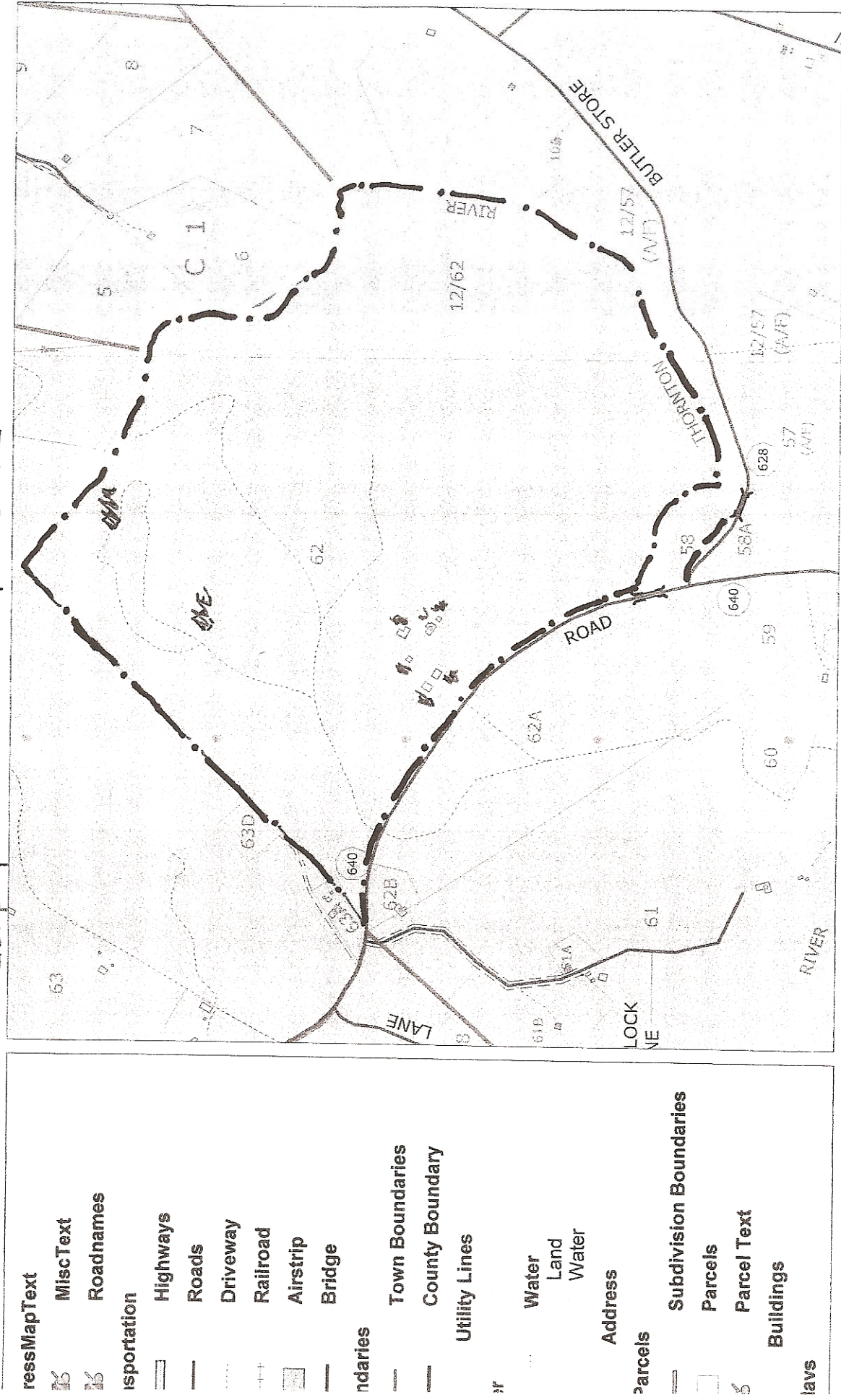
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ENDNOTES

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- ³ Culpeper County Will Book G: 125, Library of Virginia.
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- ³¹ Mary C. Boldridge, "Recollections and Childhood Experiences on the farm 'Clifton'", typescript, 1996, Crigler Family Collection.
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Crigler Place, Culpeper County, Virginia Historic Inventory, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.
- ³⁴ Mary Miller Crigler Boldridge, interview, 2006, transcript in Crigler Family Collection.
- ³⁵ Kerri S. Berile. Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, Inc. "Summary/Non-Intrusive Delineation of Two Cemeteries at Clifton Farm, Culpeper County, Virginia." 25 April 2008.

Culpeper Co. Tax Map 12-62



CLIFTON FARM OF Culpeper, LLC
ROBERT & KATHY ELLIS
7091 MONUMENTAL MILLS RD.
RIXEYVILLE, VA. 22737
CULPEPER COUNTY, VA

3-24-08